

REMARKS

Claims 3-20 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 13 and 20 being amended, and Claims 21 and 22 being canceled. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claims 13, 20, and 22 due to certain informalities. Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully submit that the claims comply with all formal requirements.

The Examiner rejected Claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to correct in insufficient antecedent basis, and respectfully submits that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshioka ('433). This rejection is moot in view of the canceled claim.

The Examiner rejected Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka in view of Japanese Patent No. 402290721. This rejection is moot in view of the canceled claim.

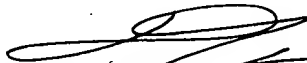
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. An entry of the amendments after final Office Action is respectfully requested, as the amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues. An early allowance is solicited. If the Examiner believes it would further advance the prosecution of the present application, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 482782005700.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 17, 2004

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